

-2-

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DEC 06 2007

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-49 (canceled)

Claim 50 (currently amended): A method for providing an optical system with the capability of being switched ~~switching an optical system~~ between a lower magnification setting and a higher magnification setting comprising:

- (a) providing a switching mechanism having:
 - (i) a first rest position corresponding to the lower magnification setting and a second rest position corresponding to the higher magnification setting[[.]]; ~~said switching mechanism having~~
 - (ii) a path of motion between said first and second rest positions; and [[b]]
 - (iii) ~~providing~~ automatic switching to the first rest position once the switching mechanism has moved past a first position along its path of motion and automatic switching to the second rest position once the switching mechanism has moved past a second position along its path of motion[[.]];

(b) providing a housing having an exterior surface, said housing surrounding the optical system except at those locations where, during use, light from an object will enter the optical system and light to be perceived by a user will leave the optical system;
and

(c) locating the switching mechanism so that it occupies a portion of said exterior surface.

-3-

Claim 51 (original): The method of Claim 50 wherein the automatic switching is provided by a torsion spring.

Claim 52 (new): The method of Claim 50 wherein the optical system comprises a binocular.

Claim 53 (new): The method of Claim 52 wherein the binocular comprises two barrels, the housing comprises a bridge between the two barrels, and the portion of the housing's exterior surface occupied by the switching mechanism is a portion of the exterior surface of the bridge.